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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Eleventh session
New York, 6-17 February 1995
Agenda item 5 (a)

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

Understanding on support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and cooperation with the Convention secretariat

1. In the context of the institutional arrangement for the Convention secretariat proposed by the Secretary-General (document A/AC.237/79/Add.1), and in pursuit of their respective work programmes, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will continue to provide significant support for the implementation of the Convention, in cooperation with the Convention secretariat. The heads of these three entities consider that such support for the Convention will reinforce their programme objectives in such areas as sustainable development, sustainable energy, protection of the atmosphere and promotion of international environmental law.

2. The nature of the support provided by these three entities will be broadly as follows:

- DPCSD will link the Convention and its secretariat to coordination processes at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels directed towards the objective of sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21, in the context, in particular, of the work under way in the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development;

- UNDP, through its country network, will help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their commitments under the Convention and to integrate this action with their national strategies for sustainable development, including the sustainable demand and supply of energy. UNDP will also facilitate coordination at the country level, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

- UNEP will place its capacity for global environmental assessment and methodological development at the disposal of the Convention process, inter alia through the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and will provide advice on international environmental law;

- UNDP and UNEP, in accordance with their roles as implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, as defined in the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Facility, will contribute to the functioning of that Facility in the focal area of climate change and will undertake and implement projects in that area.

3. In addition, the heads of the three entities are prepared to consider contributing such specific inputs to the Convention secretariat as it may require to supplement its capacity to carry out the work programme of the Conference of the Parties. Such contributions might include:

- seconding staff to the Convention secretariat and making available staff and consultants to undertake short-term tasks;

- providing organizational support services, for example in such areas as technical conference servicing, administration and public information.

4. Such contributions and the modalities for their provision, including the selection of staff for secondment, would be determined by mutual agreement between the department or Programme concerned and the Convention secretariat.

5. The heads of the three entities and the head of the Convention secretariat will cooperate with each other, under the authority and the guidance of the Secretary-General, to make this arrangement work effectively and flexibly in furtherance of their collective commitment to sustainable development. The adherence of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to this arrangement would be welcome and will be sought.